

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 023478

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT YAOUNDE 4143 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BANGUI KINSHASA LIBREVILLE PARIS 20 DECEMBER.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 4143

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EMO.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFN, CF

SUBJ: U.S. CONGO RELATIONS

REF: YAOUNDE 0281, JANUARY 25, 1974 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY:HUEC GEN (CONGO NATIONAL) OF SUPREME COUNCIL FOR PORT IN AFRICA (SCSA) REPORTS THAT CONGO PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED HIM TO ARRANGE FOR VISIT TO BRAZZAVILLE IN 1975 OF AMERICAN SPORTS TEAM. SEC GEN SEE THIS INITIATIVE AS ONE INTENDED TO CONTRIBUTE TO ULTIMATE RESUMPTION OF U.S.-CONGO RELATIONS.

&2. I RECEIVED A VISIT DECEMBER 19 FROM JEAN CLAUDE GANGA, SCSA SECRETARY GENERAL. GANGA IS A FORMER CONGO MINISTER, NOT WHOLLY CONFIDENTIAL

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SYMPATHETIC TO CURRENT REGIME, WHO HAS BEEN ON DETAIL TO SCSA

FOR MANY YEARS. ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS HE HAS DISCUSSED WITH ME POSSIBILITY OF RESUMED RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND CONGO (REFTEL) WHICH HE CLEARLY BELIEVES TO BE IN CONGO INTEREST.

3. GANGA STATED THAT HE HAD SPENT DECEMBER 12 TO 17 SIN BRAZZAVILLE. WHILE THERE HE HAD WATCHED A TV INTERVIEW WITH FONMIN GANAO BASED ON QUESTIONS TELEPHONED IN BY LISTENERS. ONE QUESTION CONCERNED U.S.-CONGO RELATIONS. ACCORDING GANGA, FONMIN REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING ON CONGO SIDE THAT STOOD IN THE WAY OF RESUMPTION OF RELATION. HOWEVER IT WAS U.S. THAT HAD LEFT THE CONGO AND HENCE IT WOULD SEEM THAT INITIATIVE TO RETURN SHOULD COME FROM U.S. GANGA STATED THAT THIS REPLY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE WITHOUT APPROVAL OF HIGHER AUTHORITIES.

4. GANGA SUBSEQUENTLY SAW PRIME MINISTER. LATTER ON OWN INITIATIVE RAISED QUESTION OF WHAT SCSA WAS DOING TO BRING AMERICAN ATHLETES TO BRAZZAVILLE. (HE HAD ON EARLIER OCCASIONS IMPLIED TO GANGA THAT CONGO WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT PRESENCE OF AMERICAN ATHLETES FOR MATCHES OR OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDER SCSA AEGIS.) GANGA REPLIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DEVELOPMENTS. HE HAD NOT WANTED TO PURSUE MATTER OFFICIALLY AS CONO POSITION SEEMED SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN.

5. PRIME MINISTER THEREUPON STATED THAT HE WISHED TO REQUEST SCSA TO ARRANGE FOR A MATCH IN BRAZZAVILLE IN 1975 WITH AN AMERICAN TEAM - BE IT FOOTBALL, VOLLEYBALL, BASKETBALL, TRACK, ETC. HE ADDED THAT THIS REQUEST WAS MADE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE PARTY. GANGA ASKED PRIME MINISTER OF CONGO ENGAGING IN "PING PONG" POLITICS. PRIME MINISTER IMPLIED THAT THIS ELEMENT NOT LACKING.

6. GANGA STATED HE WISHED TO INFORM ME OF THIS REQUEST AND TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO BE RESPONSIVE. UMBRELLA OF SCSA WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR AN AMERICAN SPORTS TEAM VISITING AFRICA TO PLAY MATCHES IN BRAZZAVILLE AND HE HOPED SUCH A TEAM COULD BE PROGRAMMED IN 1975. HE COMMENTED THAT HE HAD HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH MAL WHITFIELD ON POSSIBILITY OF CARRYING OUT TRACK CLINIC IN LIBREVILLE IN 1975 SUCH AS THOSE CARRIED OUT IN 1974 IN NAIROBI AND LAGOS. HOLDING SUCH A CLINIC IN BRAZZAVILLE INSTEAD OF LIBREVILLE MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY, HE CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECULATED, BUT A PUBLIC MATCH WOULD OBVIOUSLY SERVE MUCH BETTER AND BE MORE IN LINE WITH CONGO WISHES. HE PERSONALLY FELT STRONGLY ABOUT RESUMPTION OF US-CONGO RELATIONS AND SAW A SPORTS EVENT AS CONTRIBUTING TO SUCH AN OBJECTIVE. HE FELT CONFIDENT THIS WAS PRIME MINISTER'S INTENT.

7. I THANKED GANGA FOR THIS INFORMATION WHICH I STATED I WOULD PASS ON AT ONCE TO LASHINGTON. HE IS LEAVING FOR BRAZIL DECEM-

BER 20 FOR A TEN-DAY STAY. I REALIZE THAT A DEFINITIVE ANSWER
BY HIS RETURN IS NOT LIKELY BUT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF I COULD
CONVEY TO HIM SOME PRELIMINARY REACTIONS ON POSSIBILITY OF
SPORTS TEAM AVAILABILITY FOR VISIT. MOORE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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